



Dr. Calvin Ball

THE CALVIN BALL BULLETIN

February 2017

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Welcome

This newsletter is an opportunity for you to remain engaged and active in Howard County. You will find helpful information and details about upcoming events in the community. I trust you find this information useful and encourage you to share it with your friends, family and neighbors. Enjoy!

Summer 2017 Camp Guide - Guides have been mailed and registration is now open! Register your child today. For more info, go **online**.

Daylight Savings is Around the Corner! Mark your Calendars ~ March 12 marks the beginning of Daylight Savings. "Spring" your clock forward by one hour but don't forget to also check the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors!



Columbia Turns 50 - 2017 represents a significant milestone in Howard County. Columbia turns 50. The community is joining together in celebration 'Appreciate the Past and Imagine the Future'. Festivities begin **March 19th** and will continue through **September**. For information about upcoming events click [here](#)!



Mardi Gras on Main St

Old Ellicott City goes cajun! Join in the fun on **Saturday, February 25th** beginning at **1pm** located on Main Street in Ellicott City.

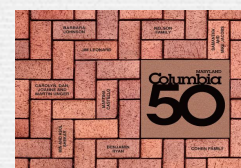
Festivities start with a family friendly Scavenger Hunt for mardi gras masks to earn beads and win prizes, plus sales, snacks and libations along the way. Our Main St restaurants will be offering New Orleans inspired food & drink all day. Live music from area musicians plus The Crowdaddies, a gumbo cook-off, king cake and more!

Read more



Buy-A-Brick Program - CA Celebrates Columbia's 50th Birthday

CA is hosting this special program in honor of Columbia's 50th Birthday Celebration. A section of the walkway at the Downtown Columbia Lakefront will be reserved for bricks placed around a large paver that says Columbia

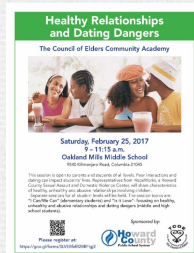


Maryland 50 (image to the right). The cost for bricks in this section are \$100/brick. The costs for bricks in other areas of the walkway are \$75/brick. Limit three lines of text. There is a 15-character limit per line of text. Spaces between words count as a character. The deadline to purchase bricks for placement in summer of 2017 is **tomorrow, February 24, 2017**. No purchases will be accepted after the deadline. Also, if you purchase multiple bricks, CA cannot guarantee they will be placed next to one another.

Black History Expo

Come out and enjoy a wonderful cultural and educational experience sure to please the entire family.

The [Black History Expo](#) will be hosted on **Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 11am at Wilde Lake High School**, 5460 Trumpeter Rd in Columbia. It will provide educational experiences that foster increased awareness and include exhibits, entertainment and vendors.



Healthy Relationships and Dating Dangers

Calling all parents and students of all grade levels - You are cordially invited to a session on Healthy Relationships and Dating Dangers this **Saturday, February 25 from 9-11:15am at Oakland Mills Middle School**, 9540 Kilimanjaro Rd, Columbia, MD 21045. Peer interactions and dating can impact students' lives. Representatives from HopeWorks, a Howard County Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center, will be on hand share characteristics of healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships involving

children. Separate sessions for all student levels will be held. The session topics are: "I Can/We Can" (elementary students) and "Is it Love"- focusing on healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships and dating dangers (middle and high school students). Click here to [register](#). For more information go [online](#).

Choose Civility Poster and Video Contest

Design a poster or create a video illustrating the theme of how kindness creates community. Use your imagination, creativity, and artistic talent to show others how the little things we do everyday can make our community stronger and inspire others. Start by asking yourself a few questions:

- How can you be kind to others?
- How has someone been kind to you?
- What does it mean to be kind or part of a community?



Talk to your art teacher or media specialist for some ideas, then design a poster or create a video. **#Choose2BKind**. Entries will be accepted **March 1-26, 2017** and must be submitted to **Monica Herber** at the Columbia Association Art Center, 6100 Foreland Garth, Columbia, MD, 21045. For more info, call **410-730-0075** or email monica.herber@columbiaassociation.org.

Read more

Leadership U 2017 Accepting Applications

Calling all students - Leadership U is open to high school sophomores (or equivalents who are home-schooled) who live in Howard County. Students may attend public or private schools, or be home-schooled. Students must have a desire to learn about their community and a willingness to volunteer. LU is a great way to meet new people from different schools who share similar interests in knowing more about their community, and who want to make a positive impact.



Those interested are invited to attend a **FREE** information session to learn more on **Thursday, March 2 at Miller Library**, 9421 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042 United States, from **7-8pm**. LU has a tuition fee; however [financial assistance](#) is available. Application deadline is **March 16, 2017**. For more details, go [online](#).

2017 Taste of Long Reach



Come out and join the Long Reach High School Boosters for a fun evening of great food and beverages from area restaurants and caterers on **Friday, March 3 from 7-11pm** at the **Ten Oaks Ballroom**, 5000 Signal Bell Ln, Clarksville, MD 21029. This is a great evening to mingle with staff members, other parents and friends in the community. There will be food tastings, door prize ticket and more included with your ticket. Click [here](#) to purchase your ticket today!

2017 Sister Cities Student Exchanges - Deadline Extended

This summer, experience a different culture and travel abroad! The Sister Cities Summer High School Exchange Program offers a once-in-a-lifetime international opportunity for Howard County high school students studying Spanish or French where teens can experience what it's like to be a teen in one of Columbia's sister cities in **Europe-Tres Cantos, Spain and Cergy-Pontoise, France or Tema, Ghana**. Participants spend approximately two weeks of cultural and linguistic immersion during the month of July in one of those cities. Applicants must have also completed level three of French or Spanish by the end of the current academic year (or have the equivalent language fluency) to go to Spain or France. There are excellent scholarships available for Columbia residents who qualify. The application deadline has been extended to **March 3**. Applications are available [online](#).



For more information, visit the [website](#) or contact Laura Smit, at **410-715-3162** or email international@columbiaassociation.org.

25th Annual Purim Palooza & Kids Activity Expo

Bring the family and enjoy an afternoon of fun! This event will be held on **Saturday, March 5, 2017 12:30-3:30pm** at **Reservoir High School**, 11550 Scaggsville Rd in Fulton. It will feature: DJ Doug's Simon Says and Other Games, Photo Novelties, Airbrush Hat & Shirts, Carnival Games, Arts & Crafts, Vendors & Exhibitors, P J Library Story Room, Face Painting, Prizes, concessions and more! The cost is \$7/per person or \$20/family (includes 10 tickets)
Read more



OMCA Information Session on Village Elections

Are you interested in serving on the Oakland Mills Community Association Board or as the Representative to Columbia Association for Oakland Mills? Candidate packets, including nomination forms are available at the **Other Barn** in the Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Pl, Columbia, MD 21045 through **March 3**. For those who are considering candidacy for the Columbia Association Representative Seat, join the Columbia Association for their final information session on **Saturday, February 25 at 10am** at **CA Headquarters**, 6310 Hillside Ct #100, Columbia, MD 21046. If you are a potential candidate for other available seats, come out to an information session hosted on **February 27, 6:30-7:30pm** by the OMCA at the Other Barn. This is a fantastic opportunity to lend your voice as a community advocate and give back to the neighborhood. Nomination packets are due by **4pm March 3rd**, and election day is **April 29**. For details, contact Sandy Cederbaum at **410-730-4610** or email manager@oaklandmills.org.

"Celebrating Successes for Children" Award Nominations Accepted

Do you know of any individuals, programs, or businesses that have made a positive impact on the lives of Howard County children? The Howard County Office of Children and Families is seeking nominations for those that are dedicated to ensuring a better future for the youth of Howard County for the 18th annual "Celebrating Successes for Children" awards program. The Celebrating Successes awards program honors people, programs or businesses that make a difference and serve children in one of the following categories:

- Infants and Toddlers (0-3yrs)
- Preschool-Age Children (3-5yrs)
- Elementary-Age Children (Kindergarten - 5th Gr.)
- Middle School-Age Children (6th - 8th Gr.)
- High School-Age Children (9th-12th Gr.)
- Mixed-Aged Group (person or program that works with children of different ages)

- Nominated individuals do not have to be a resident of Howard County, but he or she must serve Howard County. Programs and businesses must be located in Howard County. Nominations will be accepted [online](#) through **Friday, March 3**. For more information, or to request a nomination form in an alternative format, contact children@howardcountymd.gov. Nominees will be recognized during the Month of the Young Child at the County's 18th annual "Celebrating Successes for Children" ceremony on **Wednesday, April 26th** at Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Ln in Clarksville.



Looking for a job? You are cordially invited to come to HCC's job fair on **Friday, March 17th from 10am-1pm** in the **Burrill Galleria of the Clark Library Building**, located on 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia. You will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from 80 government agencies, businesses and organizations who are looking to fill part-time and full-time position. This free event is open to students and community members seeking employment. To

review a list of employers at the job fair, visit www.howardcc.edu/jobfair

Graduation Update

For those graduating, you have until **March 15th** to apply for graduation. Visit HCC's [website](#) for more information.

Kids on Campus

Year-Round Classes:

HCC offers year-round classes for kids on weekends or on weekday evenings. HCC also offers weekday courses for homeschool students to learn more about specific topics in our state-of-the-art labs and facilities. Click [here](#) for more information.

SAT, ACT & Other Test Preparation

HCC offers the opportunity for High school students to prepare at HCC for SAT, ACT, and other standardized testing. Click [here](#) for details.

Ms. Biz Mornings

Ms. Biz Mornings is a FREE networking group for women in business hosted the 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings of every month (**8:30-10am**). Events are held at a different local business each month. For more information visit [Ms. Biz online](#). The 2017 upcoming meetings are as follows:



- **March 7** - Keller Williams/ The Laura Strunk Team 6250 Old Dobbin Rd #140 Columbia
- **March 21** - Sponsored by Wellness by Shari. Held at 9030 Red Branch Road #150, Columbia

2nd Citizens' FY18 Budget Hearing

Join Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman for his second Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY2018 budget cycle on **March 8** at **7pm** in the **Banneker Room** of the **George Howard Building**, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City. Online registration is open for residents to sign-up to speak at the hearing by going to www.howardcountymd.gov/budgettestimony. From the same link, residents will also have the option to provide online budget testimony; however, residents are reminded that internet testimony is considered public information and, as such, is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act. Residents who do not wish to sign-up online will still be able to sign-up in person on the night of the public hearing beginning at **6pm**. Speakers must sign-up individually and may only testify once. Individual testimony is limited to three minutes and group testimony is limited to five.

20th Anniversary Chocolate Ball

Long known as "The Premiere" event in Howard County, the annual Chocolate Ball is the biggest fundraiser for The Arc of Howard County. This event will be held on **Saturday, March 11, 2017 7pm-Midnight** at Turf Valley Resort. Generously supported by its sponsors, the black tie event includes music, dancing, a silent auction and an ultimate confection contest. Bakers from all over the state compete to illustrate the theme in sugary goodness.



Proceeds from the Chocolate Ball benefit The Arc of Howard County's vocational and residential support and services, respite care, and other programs and services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information, contact **Dee Athey** at **410-730-0638 x306** or email dathey@archoward.org.

[Read more](#)

Long Reach Community Association

Long Reach Village Animal Shelter Extravaganza

Calling all animal lovers - Bring your family and friends out to the **Stonehouse**, 8775 Cloudleap Court, Columbia, MD 21045, on **Friday, March 10** from **12-3pm** to play with animals! Have fun making pet toys for the animals at the Howard County Animal Control &



Adoption Center. If you can't make the event, but would like to help, stop by Stonehouse and donate new & unused supplies for the local animal shelter: Rawhide chews; Blankets; Unopened dog & cat food; Towels; Grooming supplies brushes, pet shampoos; Gift cards to Petsmart, Petco, Walmart, and Home Depot.

Long Reach Village Elections:

Are you a home-owner or lease-holding tenant of property in Long Reach looking for to be an advocate for your community? Nominations to hold one of the two open Village Board seats or the Columbia Association Representative will be open from **March 1 - March 21 at 12pm**. Petitions on election information can be picked up at **Stonehouse** beginning March 1. Election Committee Members are also needed - consider volunteering! For more information, call Stonehouse at **410-730-8113**.

2017 Spirit of Columbia Scholarship

Are you a graduating high school senior looking for scholarship opportunities for higher education? Apply today for the 2017 Spirit of Columbia Scholarship! The CA scholarship program offers up to six \$2,500 education awards to graduating high school seniors who exhibit exceptional efforts in community service. The deadline is **March 15**. To learn more about this opportunity, visit CA's [website](#) or call **410-715-3161**.

Deer Management Program

The Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule for the deer bow and shotgun managed hunts of **2016-2017**. These hunts are held to maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population. The program gives specially screened and selected hunters daytime access to a park. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed [online](#). For more details call **410-313-1675**.

Alpha Ridge Park (Bow & Shotgun)

March 15

Dorsey Hall Open Space

March 8

Gray Rock Open Space

March 8

Medicare 101: What You Can Expect From Medicare



Did you recently enroll in Medicare or will be going on soon? Do you help someone who has Medicare as his or her health insurance? This presentation covers how Medicare Parts A (Hospital), B (Medical), and D (Prescription Drug) work, what the benefits are, and when you should make decisions related to your coverage. Find out about benefit programs that can help pay for Medicare health care costs. Sponsored by the State

Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), Howard County Office on Aging and Independence. Register by calling **(410) 313-7389**. Events will be held on:

Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 7pm-8:30pm at the **Howard County General Hospital - Wellness Center**, 10710 Charter Dr., Suite 100, Columbia 20144

Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 1pm-2:30pm at the **North Laurel 50+ Center**, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd., Laurel 20723

21st Annual Howard County Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

The Howard County Commission for Women will induct the following five women into the 2017 Women's Hall of Fame: Mary Catherine Cochran; Sandra Harriman; Stacie Hunt; Abbie Diane Martin; and Margaret Schultz. The event will be held **March 9, 2017, 7:30-9:30pm**, in the **Banneker Room** of the **George Howard Building**, 3430 Court House Drive. The event is free and open to the public. To learn more about the Commission for Women, click [here](#).

Boards and Commissions - Nominations Accepted

Interested in volunteering and giving back to our community? You are cordially invited to apply for a position on our Boards and Commissions. For a list, click [here](#). Below is information on our current

vacancy. To apply, applicants should send a resume and brief letter explaining why they would like to serve to [David Lee](#) or by mail to: **Howard County Government, Office of the County Executive, Attn: David Lee, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.**

Howard County Seeks Student Member for Recreation & Parks Advisory Board:

Are you a Howard County resident, and enrolled in high school for the 2017-2018 academic year with an interest in learning more about Howard County's public recreation? Apply today to serve a one-year term from **July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018**. Recreation & Parks Advisory Board! Eligible candidates must be Howard County residents, enrolled in high school for the 2017-2018 academic year, have an interest in public recreation and be able to attend the Board's meetings held the **third Wednesday** of each month from **7-9pm** in Conference Room #1 at the **Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters**, 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia. The names of eligible applicants will be submitted to the County Executive for approval and the nominee will be submitted to the County Council for confirmation. The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, March 15**. For more information, go [online](#).

Howard County Seeks Member for Plumbing Advisory Board:

Calling all Howard County residents interested in all matters related to the conduct of plumbing business in Howard County - Apply today to serve a five-year term on the Plumbing Advisory Board! Eligible candidates must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in plumbing and be able to attend the Board's meetings which are held in the evenings as needed at the **George Howard Building**, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City. The names of eligible applicants will be submitted to the County Executive for approval and then to the County Council for confirmation. The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, March 22**. Click [here](#) for more information.

Medicare 102: Why Medicare Isn't Enough

Learn about Medicare Advantage/Health Plans (Part C) and Medicare Supplement Policies (Medigap). What should you consider when deciding which Medicare choices are right for you? Understand how plans vary, your costs and when is the best time to enroll. Learn how to protect yourself and Medicare from healthcare fraud. To register call **(410) 313-7389**. Will be held:

Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 7am-8:30am, at the **Howard County General Hospital Wellness Center**, 10710 Charter Dr., Suite 100, Columbia 21044

Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 1pm-2:30pm at the **North Laurel 50+ Center**, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd., Laurel 20723

HCPSS Volunteer Opportunities

Passport to the Future Interviewers:

Conduct an "employment-like" interview with high school students seeking *Passport to the Future* certification. on **Friday, March 17 8am-12pm** at **HCC, Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall**, Room #400, 10901 Little Patuxent, Columbia, MD 21044. Go [online](#) to register. For more information contact sdiscepolo@hcpss.org or call **410-313-7493**.

History Day Judges:

Judge middle and high school student work based on National History Day Commission criteria on **Saturday, March 18 from 8am-2:30pm** at **Reservoir High School**, 11550 Scaggsville Road, Fulton. For registration information contact Kelly Reichardt by emailing kelly_reichardt@hcpss.org or call **410-313-6622**.

4th Annual Transition Symposium 2017

Mark Your Calendars for our 4th Annual Transition Symposium, "Stop Waiting and Start Planning" on **Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 8am-4:30pm** at **Cedar Lane School**, 11630 Scaggsville Rd, Fulton, MD 20759. This day-long conference offers parents, caregivers, professionals, and transitioning youth with developmental and physical disabilities an opportunity to learn about a wide variety of transition-related topics. A special thanks event sponsors: the Transition Outreach Partnership, a collaborative effort of [Howard County Autism Society](#), [Howard County Public School System](#), [Howard County Government](#), and Accessible Resources for Independence, Inc. For more information and registration details, visit the [HCAS website](#).



Collision Avoidance Training

Our Howard County Police Department will be conducting Collision Avoidance Training (CAT) classes throughout 2017. This is an advance defensive driving and vehicle control program for licensed teen driver's ages 16-20. Driving skills addressed include: evasive maneuvers, emergency braking, cornering, backing, skid recovery, steering, acceleration and more.

Students must operate their own vehicle and successfully complete each driving skill/maneuver to receive a certificate of completion. Sessions are: **March 18, April 22, May 20, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 21, November 18, December 16**. For more information, visit our [website](#).

World Language Café

Columbia Association's World Languages Café began in early 2013 as a way to provide great evenings of conversations and culture in more than a dozen different languages. The café will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the **50+ Center** at the **East Columbia Library**, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Owen Brown. The upcoming session is **March 28, 2017** from **7-9pm**.

Languages include: American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish. Language tables are hosted by native speakers will facilitate conversations. Most people who attend already have some fluency in the language and can put sentences together; these gatherings are not grammar or vocabulary classes. For more information go [online](#), email International@ColumbiaAssociation.org or call **410-715-3162**.



Jazz in the Mill 2017

You are cordially invited to enjoy the Jazz in the Mill concert series presenting the Reginald Cyntje Group at the **Other Barn**, 5851 Robert Oliver PI, Columbia, MD 21045, on **March 26** from **5-7:30pm**. Tickets are available at the Other Barn and online. They will also be available at the door. For more [information](#), go online or contact Sandy Cedarbaum by email at manager@oaklandmills.org or call **410-730-4610**.

2017 "Sophie Altman Coach of the Year Award"

Calling all IT'S ACADEMIC teams...to honor the memory of IT'S ACADEMIC's creator and long-term producer, Sophie Altman, Giant Food is presenting the 2017 "Sophie Altman Coach of the Year Award." This award is intended as a tribute to all IT'S ACADEMIC coaches. To nominate your school's IT'S ACADEMIC coach, send an e-mail to itsacademicaward@aol.com containing why you would like to honor your coach. Coaches can be nominated by individuals or by groups as long as nominators are members of the school community. The Deadline for nominations is **March 31, 2017** and the winner will be announced on the Championship show in **June**.

International Celebration 5K

Calling all runners - All are invited to run or walk together in the spirit of community and friendly competition to celebrate our wonderful diversity with FIRN on **Sunday, April 2** from **6:30-10:30am** at **HCC HPVA Building**, 10901 Little Patuxent, Columbia, MD 21044. Unique features of the event include bibs, flags from countries of choice, and several categories of recognition. A "Parade of Nations" during the event welcoming all runners, walkers, volunteers and spectators to participate is being planned. The all-inclusive "Parade of Nations" will celebrate the town's rich diversity with participants from the United States and more than 70 other countries.



The route for the 5K (3.1 mile) run/walk and 1-mile run/walk will wind through some of Columbia's neighborhoods allowing all to experience the richness of the planned community on it's 50th birthday. Families are encouraged to participate. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Board of Education - Cluster Appointments for 2016-2017

Unsure which Board of Education elected official is appointed to your cluster schools? Below are the

members and their respective school appointments. If you have any questions or concerns in these schools, please contact them directly so they may work with you on a resolution. For more information, go [online](#).

Cynthia L. Vailancourt, Chair. Due to her position as Chair, Ms. Vailancourt is not assigned any cluster schools.

Dr. Bess Altwerger, Vice Chair- Atholton/Oakland Mills

Kirsten Coombs-Glenelg/Wilde Lake

Christina Delmont-Small-Howard/Marriotts Ridge

Sandra French-Centennial/Long Reach

Mavis Ellis-Hammond/Reservoir

Christine O'Connor-Mount Hebron/River Hill

Stand Up for our Students

Our goal in Howard County is to ensure the safety of all of students. If you witness Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation occur during the current school year on school property, at a school sponsored activity or event off school property, on a school bus, on the way to and/or from school, or on the Internet, sent on or off school property; or that substantially disrupted the orderly operation of the school. Please fill out the [Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation form](#) to make sure that our students' incidents are addressed for their safety.

"Community Sports Hall of Fame" Nominees Sought

Do you know of any outstanding coaches, managers, league officials commissioners or behind-the-scenes contributors closely identified with recreational sports in Howard County? The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks has announced that [nomination forms](#) are available for it 2017 "Community Sports Hall of Fame." Nominees must either be residents of Howard County or must have made their community sports contributions primarily in Howard County. All nominations must be delivered or postmarked by Saturday, **April 15, 2017** to: **Howard County Community Sports Hall of Fame, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046**. individuals chosen for this year's inductee class will be inducted into the Community Sports Hall of Fame at the 15th Annual Celebration of Sports in **October**. For more information, contact Mike Blevins at mblevins@howardcountymd.gov.



In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency that empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24- hour crisis intervention, shelter & outreach services. They provide programs & services including 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter & Day Resource Center.

The Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit the Grassroots website [online](#) at The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

OMHS 2017 Spring Fling and Silent Auction Fundraiser

The Oakland Mills High School Boosters Club cordially invites you to participate in the 2nd Annual Spring Fling and Silent Auction Fundraiser on **April 29** from **6:30-11pm** at the **Second Chance Saloon** in the Oakland Mills Village Center. Your ticket will include food, karaoke, a DJ and door prize raffles. Go [online](#) to purchase your ticket and for more information.



9th Annual WomenFest - Vendors Sought



The County's Department of Community Resources and Services invites businesses that offer products or services which promote women's health, wellness, fashion and beauty to register for exhibit space at this year's WomenFest. This is an interactive day which focuses on health, wellness, fashion, and beauty; and features 90+ vendors and exhibitors, free health screenings, and interactive seminars. This signature event for women will be held on **Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 10am-3pm**, at the **Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood**, 2400 Route 97 in Cookeville. Admission and Parking are free.

[Read more](#)

Downtown Columbia Eats App

We're serving up a different way of dining which makes going out to dinner an extra treat in Downtown Columbia. [Downtown Columbia Eats!](#) is a loyalty program for participating restaurants and eateries in Downtown Columbia including Petit Louis Bistro, Union Jack's, Seasons 52, Whole Foods, and the Nordstrom Café. The app is powered by Loyaltap and is available to download for FREE via the Apple Store and Google Play. Download today and begin saving.



Metropolitan Washington Ear: A Free News/Information Service for the Visually Impaired

Metropolitan Washington Ear provides free news and information services for blind, visually-impaired and physically disabled residents with goals to strive to *substitute hearing for seeing*, improving the lives of people with little or no vision by enabling them to be well-informed, fully-productive members of their families, their communities and the working world. Free services that the Metropolitan Washington Ear include:

- 24/7 radio broadcast using radios pre-tuned to our station and a subcarrier channel from WETA-FM
- 24/7 **telephone dial-in news and information** service accessed by using a touch-tone telephone that allows the caller to skip and scan newspapers, magazines, and other information just as a sighted person does when reading a publication.
- **Audio-Description** of live stage performances in eight theaters in the DC metropolitan area, as well as designated performances for the Washington Revels, the Hexagon revue and others as requested.
- **Symphony Notes** for the National Symphony Orchestra and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at Strathmore.
- Personal **look-up service** every evening.
- **Natural Voices** rather than computer-generated voices for easier listening.

For more information go [online](#), contact **301-681-6636** or information@washear.org.

Scam ALERT

Charitable Foundations

The Howard County Office of Consumer Protection is warning residents to use caution and common sense when dealing with solicitors who claim to represent firefighter associations or others seeking donations to aid people who have been affected by fire or natural disaster. It is important to take the time to check where your generosity is going regardless of the cause.

Utilities Calls

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Howard County Office of Consumer Protection are warning residents to use caution when dealing with callers claiming to be a representative with the consumer's local gas or electric utility company, stating that immediate payment, often by prepaid debit cards, credit cards or gift cards, is due to ensure the consumer's heating service is not disconnected.

The Office of Consumer Affairs also advises:

- Do not answer calls from unknown numbers, Let them go to voicemail.
- No legitimate business will demand payment via gift cards, prepaid debit cards or wire transfer.

- If you are not sure if a caller is legitimate, hang up, look up the company's phone number independently, and use that number to verify the call with the company.
- If you get a recorded message asking you to hit a phone key to stop getting calls, just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify, and then target, live respondents.
- Ask your phone service provider if it offers a robocall blocking service that allows subscribers to block unwanted calls. If not, encourage your provider to start offering a blocking service. Visit the FCC's website for more information and resources on available blocking tools at www.fcc.gov/unwanted-calls.
- Residents who have lost money or feel their personal safety is at risk due to a scam should contact the Howard County Police Department's non-emergency phone number at **410-313-2200** to file a report.

[Share With Friends & Neighbors!](#)

STAY CONNECTED

